amended Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 2006 and is now under the examination of the Ministry related Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Malnourished children in India

†2101. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 14.6 crores children under malnutrition all over the world, 5.7 crores children are in India alone as per UNICEF;

(b) whether it is a fact that malnutrition is the cause of 50 per cent infant death in India wherein 21 lakh infants die every year; and

(c) if so, State-wise details thereof and the efforts Government are making in this regard, in this light?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per UNICEF report titled "Progress for Children, A Report Card on Nutrition, No. 4, May, 2006", out of 14.06 crore underweight children under 5 years in the World, 5.7 crore are from India. However, these estimates of underweight children in India are based on findings of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) carried out in 1998-99. The third NFHS is currently underway and its finding are expected by the end of the year.

(b) and (c) Malnutrition is a multifaceted, multi-dimensional problem and is not a direct but underlying cause of death as it increases morbidity and mortality by reducing the resistance to infections. No State Government has, however, reported infant deaths due to malnutrition.

Since the problem of malnutrition is multi-sectoral, intergenerational in nature, it needs to be tackled through coordinated interventions in area of food security, safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition, health & family welfare, poverty alleviation etc. The Government is already seized of the problem and a number of Schemes/Programmes are being implemented through various Ministries/Departments which have, direct or indirect

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

bearing on or nutritional status of children. Some of these Schemes/ Programes are as under:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme;

(ii) National Nutritional Anaemia Control Perogramme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(iii) National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to vitamin-A (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(iv) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme (Ministry of health & Family Welfare);

(v) Reproductive & Child Health Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(vi) National Rural Health Mission (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(vii) Accelerated Rural water Supply Programme & Total Sanitation Campaign (Ministry of Rural Development);

(viii) Poverty Alleviation Programme (Ministry of Rural Development).

(ix) Targeted Public distribution System (Deptt. of Food Consumer Affairs);

(x) A pilot Project in 51 districts to provide free food grains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant & nursing mothers (Ministry of Women & Child Development).

Anaemia and Vitamin-A deficiency in children

2102. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that iron deficiency, anaemia Vitamin-A deficiency are the common ailments among children in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are implementing nutrition schemes like ICDS across most of the States in the country; and

(c) what factors, according to Government, contribute to the continued malnourishment among children and the steps being taken to restore the health and nutritional standards in this regard?